

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

HENRY EUGENE BAKER,)	4:10CV3228
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	MEMORANDUM
)	AND ORDER
ROBERT P. HOUSTON, Director NDCS,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

This matter is before the court on Petitioner’s Motion to Appoint Counsel. (Filing No. [7](#).) The law is clear that “[t]here is neither a constitutional nor statutory right to counsel in habeas proceedings; instead, [appointment] is committed to the discretion of the trial court.” [McCall v. Benson](#), 114 F.3d 754, 756 (8th Cir. 1997). As a general rule, counsel will not be appointed unless the case is unusually complex or the petitioner’s ability to investigate and articulate the claims is unusually impaired or an evidentiary hearing is required. *See, e.g., Morris v. Dormire*, 217 F.3d 556, 558-59 (8th Cir. 2000), *cert. denied*, 531 U.S. 984 (2000); *Hoggard v. Purkett*, 29 F.3d 469, 471 (8th Cir. 1994) (citations omitted). *See also* Rule 8(c) of the [Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts](#) (requiring appointment of counsel if an evidentiary hearing is warranted.) The court has carefully reviewed the record and finds that there is no need for the appointment of counsel at this time.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Petitioner’s Motion to Appoint Counsel (filing no. [7](#)) is denied.
2. The court reminds Petitioner that his response to Respondent’s Answer and Brief in support is due February 24, 2011.

DATED this 28th day of January, 2011.

BY THE COURT:

s/ Joseph F. Bataillon
Chief United States District Judge

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